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The Semi-centennial of
Mecklenburg Presbytery.

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The
SEMI-CENTENNIAL
of
MECKLENBURG
PRESBYTERY

1869-1919

B S STARNES



HELD IN
STEELE CREEK CHURCH
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N. C.
SEPTEMBER 17, 1919

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OF
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Allen County Public Library
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B S STARNES

FOREWORD

The Presbytery of Mecklenburg is to be congratulated on its historian. Dr. McIlwain's connection with the Presbytery began in 1873, forty-six years ago, just four years after its organization, so that he has observed its development during nearly the whole of its half century of growth and is doubtless more familiar with it than any living man. Not only so, but he has himself been one of the most potent factors in the promotion of that development and indeed in all the forward work of our Synod, especially its phenomenal progress in Home Missions during the last forty years.

In 1881 the Synod met in Salisbury and that meeting marks an era in the history of the Presbyterian Church of North Carolina, for it was then and there that a paper was presented, signed by Wm. E. McIlwain and four other ministers proposing the prosecution of Home Mission work throughout the state by "Synodical effort" as distinguished from the purely Presbyterian method which had been exclusively employed up to that time. After earnest debate, continued at intervals for two or three days, this paper was adopted, and thus the great work of Synodical Home Missions was born—the work to which we are indebted for the brightest chapters in all our history as an Evangelistic church. The plan not being satisfactorily worked out at first, Dr. McIlwain, who was chairman of the Committee of Home Missions in Mecklenburg Presbytery, secured the co-operation of the corresponding officers in the other Presbyteries and called a convention at Goldsboro on the day before Synod met there in 1888 to consider the interest of Home Missions. The convention adopted a memorial to be presented to Synod next day, in answer to which the Synod inaugurated the fully organized work of Synodical Home

Missions—the action which for the first time gave our church her true place as an Evangelistic agency in this state and which has resulted in a great ingathering of souls and a great expansion of the church's activities on every line.

The thing that deserves emphasis is that Dr. McIlwain, Mecklenburg's chairman of Home Missions at that time, was one of the prime movers in this epoch-making action, as indeed he was in almost every other forward movement of the church. At that same meeting of Synod, for instance, he introduced a resolution in answer to a memorial from the Presbyterian Lady Managers of the "Home and Hospital" in Charlotte, appointing a commission to establish the Orphans' Home now at Barium Springs, one of the most important steps taken by the Synod.

In every way he has been a leader and a creative worker of wide vision, of bold initiative, of sound judgment, of unflagging zeal, and it was one of the chief felicities of the semi-centennial celebration that he was selected to tell the stirring story of those first fifty years. Happy the Presbytery with such an historian! Happy the historian of such a Presbytery!

WALTER W. MOORE.

B S STARNES

Order Taken for the Celebration of the Semi-Centennial of the Presbytery at Mallard Creek Church, September 18, 1918

"Whereas, on October 16, 1919, the Presbytery of Mecklenburg will have reached the fiftieth year of its history;

"And whereas, such an occasion ought not to pass without due notice and proper celebration, therefore resolved,

"First, that a committee be appointed at this meeting of Presbytery to prepare a program and select speakers for the occasion, and submit a history of the Presbytery covering these fifty years.

"Second, that the Presbyteries of Asheville and Kings Mountain be invited to be well represented and take an active part with us in this celebration.

"Third, that this committee be instructed to so select and arrange its historical data that their reports could be easily printed in pamphlet form for general distribution in all our churches."

The following committee was appointed to arrange for the semi-centennial to be held at the Fall meeting of 1919: Rev. A. A. McGeachey, D.D., Chairman; Rev. Wm. E. McIlwain, D.D., Rev. J. W. Orr, Rev. H. E. Gurney, D.D., with Elders F. S. Neal, Geo. E. Wilson and W. H. Belk.

At a called meeting held in the First Church, Charlotte, July 21st, 1919, the Committee on the Semi-Centennial made the following recommendations, which were adopted:

First. That the semi-centennial be held at Steele Creek Church, September 17, at eleven A. M., and that Rev. A. A. McGeachey, D. D., Chairman of the Committee, preside.

Second. That Concord Presbytery be invited to take part in this celebration.

Third. That the Historical Address be delivered by the Rev. Wm. E. McIlwain, D.D.

Fourth. That addresses be delivered by representatives of Asheville, Kings Mountain and Concord Presbyteries.

Fifth. That a free conference be held by members of Presbytery and visitors from other Presbyteries.

The Presbytery met in Steele Creek Church September 16, 1919, in its one hundredth session, and was opened with a sermon by Rev. W. R. Coppedge, the retiring Moderator.

Rev. Wm. Black, D.D., was elected Moderator. It was evident from the first that this was to be a great meeting of Presbytery. Visitors began to arrive from both the Carolinas and from more distant states. The following ministers were invited to sit as corresponding members and were introduced to the Presbytery: Rev. J. H. Morrison, D.D., Pine Bluff Presbytery; Rev. Geo. Summey, D.D., New Orleans Presbytery; Rev. W. P. McCorkle, D.D., Roanoke Presbytery; Rev. W. W. Moore, D.D., West Hanover Presbytery; Rev. John McEachern, Orange Presbytery; Rev. A. W. Crawford, Fayetteville Presbytery; Rev. S. L. Morris, D.D., Macon Presbytery; Rev. R. S. Arrowood, Fayetteville Presbytery; Rev. J. M. Grier, D.D., Rev. S. E. Cathey, Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. E. D. Brown, Rev. W. T. Walker, Concord Presbytery; Rev. R. F. Campbell, D.D., and Rev. R. P. Smith, D.D., Asheville Presbytery; Rev. J. B. Swann, Bethel Presbytery; Rev. J. T. Dendy, Rev. G. A. Sparrow, Rev. J. C. Grier, Kings Mountain Presbytery; Rev. Eugene Alexander, Fayetteville Presbytery; Rev. A. G. Buckner, D.D., Pee Dee Presbytery; Rev. Wm. E. McIlwain, D.D., Florida Presbytery.

The hour having arrived for the semi-centennial exercises, the former order of Presbytery was carried out. The Rev. A. A. McGeachey presided, and introduced Rev. W. E. McIlwain, who delivered the following address:

B S STARNES

The Semi-Centennial of the Presbytery of Mecklenburg, 1869-1919

My Brethren of the Presbytery of Mecklenburg:

In compliance with your request to deliver the historical address on this interesting occasion, I have selected for my theme "The History of the Presbytery of Mecklenburg from its Organization October 16th, 1869, to October 16th, 1919."

The organization of the Presbytery of Mecklenburg was effected October 16th, 1869, after favorable answer by the Synod of North Carolina to the following overture from the Presbytery of Concord: "The Presbytery of Concord, persuaded that the work of the Lord would be more efficiently performed and at the same time much labor, time and expense saved by a division of its territory, churches, ministers, and candidates, most respectfully overtures the venerable Synod of North Carolina to set off from the territory of the Presbytery of Concord in order to form a new Presbytery to be called the Presbytery of Mecklenburg, the following counties, viz: Anson, Union and such part of Mecklenburg as lies South and West of a line beginning at Beattie's Ford on the Catawba river and running thence with the road to Concord town until said road meets the Cabarrus County line, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford, Buncome, Henderson, Transylvania, Madison, Haywood, Jackson, Clay, Macon, and Cherokee, with the following ministers: R. H. Morrison, D.D., Robert Burwell, J. E. Morrison, J. D. Hall, John Douglas, Nathan Shotwell, Walter W. Pharr, J. F. W. Freeman, Thos. E. Davis, R. N. Davis, J. C. Williams, Jacob Hood, A. W. Miller, D.D., G. D. Parks, J. S. Barr, R. Z. Johnston, R. B. Anderson, Wm. A. McDonald, H. H. Banks, J. J. Kennedy, W. N. Morrison. And churches as follows: Unity, Castanea Grove, Providence, Lebanon, Goshen, Steele Creek,

lin, Davidson River, Mills River, Hendersonville, Rutherfordton, Mallard Creek, Flat Creek, (Red Oak), Olney, Union, Lincolnton, Long Creek, Hopewell, Ebenezer (Morrison), Charlotte, Sugar Creek, Caldwell (Paw Creek), Sharon, Machpelah, Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Asheville, Swannanoa, Pleasant Hill, Little Brittain, Shelby, Sandy Plains, Frank-New Hope, Dallas, Wadesboro, Bethel, Hiawasse, Beulah. Also the following candidates for the ministry: C. N. Hutchinson, P. P. Maxwell, Chas. M. Douglas, George Summey and James H. Morrison. The Presbytery of Mecklenburg will then embrace 17 counties, 38 churches, 23 ministers and 5 candidates."

The report of the Synod's Committee on Bills and Overtures touching the above overture from Concord Presbytery is as follows:

"The Committee unanimously recommend:

"1st. That the Synod of North Carolina do erect a new Presbytery out of a portion of the territory to be styled the Presbytery of Mecklenburg with the boundary, churches, ministers and candidates, in accordance with said overture.

"2nd. That the Presbytery of Mecklenburg be directed to meet for the first time in the parlor of Mrs. Robert Pearson in the town of Morgantown, N. C., this morning, October 16, 1869, at 11:30 A. M., and that Rev. R. H. Chapman, D.D., preside as Moderator."

This report was adopted and in accordance with the action of Synod, the ministers and ruling elders included in the territory set off from the Presbytery of Concord, with a view of being formed and constituted the Presbytery of Mecklenburg, met in the parlor of Mrs. Robert Pearson in the town of Morgantown, Saturday, October 16th, 1869, at 11:30 A. M.

Rev. R. H. Chapman called the meeting to order and opened the session with prayer. The Moderator appointed Elder A. T. Summey, temporary Clerk. The roll was called and the following ministers and elders answered to their names: Ministers—W. W. Pharr, Robert Burwell, A. W.

Miller, D.D., R. Z. Johnston, Wm. A. McDonald, J. F. W. Freeman, R. N. Davis, J. S. Barr, J. J. Kennedy, Nathan Shotwell, R. H. Chapman, D.D., W. N. Morrison, H. H. Banks, Wm. Graves, Jacob Hood, John Douglas. Ruling Elders—J. M. Earnhardt, Mallard Creek Church; A. G. Neel, Steele Creek; John R. Davidson, Hopewell; R. S. White, Philadelphia; S. W. Craig, New Hope; A. T. Summey, Asheville; Dr. E. Nye Hutchinson, Charlotte. The Presbytery being thus constituted, Dr. Chapman was elected Moderator, A. T. Summey, temporary Clerk, and Rev. R. Z. Johnston, stated Clerk, and Rev. R. N. Davis, Treasurer. A committee consisting of Dr. A. W. Miller, Rev. H. H. Banks and Elder A. G. Neel was appointed to nominate the standing committees of the Presbytery. The new Presbytery then adjourned, to meet in its first regular session at Steele Creek Church April 21st, 1870, at 11:00 A. M. A strong Committee of Home Missions was appointed, consisting of Rev. G. D. Parks, Rev. J. C. Williams, with Elder John Walker, of Sharon Church, J. M. Hutchinson, Sugar Creek Church, and J. L. Brown, Deacon in the Charlotte Church.

The first standing rule adopted by the new Presbytery was that the Presbytery would hold its Fall meetings in the mountain portion of its territory. The wisdom of such a rule will appear as this history unfolds. That you may form some idea how intent the new Presbytery was upon reaching its vast destitutions, the fact is recorded that at its very first regular meeting it appointed a committee consisting of Dr. Miller, Rev. John Douglas, and Rev. H. H. Banks to secure an evangelist for the Presbytery and to report promptly to the Presbytery. Christian education was not neglected by the Presbytery at this, its first meeting. The following Trustees of Davidson College were appointed: Dr. R. H. Morrison, Dr. A. W. Miller, Dr. E. Nye Hutchinson, J. M. Hutchinson, Gen. Rufus Barringer, Gen. D. H. Hill, Hon. Wm. M. Coker, Rev. John Douglas, Rev. G. D. Parks, Rev. J. C. Williams, Dr. W. B. McLean and R. I. McDowell. The Presbytery having closed its sessions at Steele Creek Church, adjourned to meet in regular Fall session at Franklin

Church, Macon county, in the heart of its mountain territory.

Before entering fully upon the history of the Presbytery, let me briefly call attention to the very difficult task committed to the new Presbytery. Its territory from East to West, from Anson county to the Georgia and Tennessee lines, embraced 19 counties of the state, and was more than 250 miles in length. Presbyterian destitution in much of this territory was discouraging. In six of these counties, Cleveland, Madison, Jackson, Cherokee, Graham and Swain, there was not a Presbyterian Church. In Union county one small country church, Bethlehem, with 44 members; in Anson county, one small country church, Lebanon, with 59 members; in Polk county one church, Sandy Plains, with 8 members; in Haywood county one church, Bethel, with 31 members; in Transylvania county one church, Davidson River, 41 members; in Clay county one church, Hiwassee, with 30 members. In these six counties, Anson, Union, Polk, Haywood, Transylvania and Clay, we had only 213 members of our church. In six other counties we had no churches at all. Therefore, in twelve entire counties of the state we had only six small country churches with an aggregate membership of 213. In other words, we have more members today in the Huntersville Church than we then had in twelve counties of our Presbytery, and three times as many members today in Steele Creek Church as we then had in twelve of our mission counties in 1869. Now let us turn from the consideration of this very difficult task confronting the Presbytery and inquire as to the resources at the command of the new Presbytery. There was only one church in Charlotte of 263 members, only one church in Asheville with 83 members, 60 pupils in the Sabbath School and paying less than \$700.00 per year for pastor's salary and congregation expenses. There was no church in Wadesboro, Monroe, Matthews, Pineville, Huntersville, Shelby, Gastonia, Kings Mountain, Belmont, Lowell, Brevard or Waynesville.

The First Church, Charlotte, and Sugar Creek and Hope-well were the only churches in the Presbytery which sup-

ported their ministers for the whole of his time. For the first year \$2,753.00 was given for all departments of Home Missions and the First Church, Charlotte, gave over \$2,000.00 of this amount. You will not forget that the organization of the Presbytery was within four years of the close of the great Civil War and the horrors of the so-called "reconstruction" were not yet passed. The poverty of many of our best people was not imaginary but profoundly real. Under war conditions the Synod of North Carolina, we are told, had practically made no progress in four years. Instead of progressing numerically she had actually lost 2,000 communicants, and it goes without saying that this part of the state had borne its full share of suffering and loss. Were not the fathers who established this Presbytery real heroes of faith when, under the shadows of war, with twelve out of nineteen counties practically vacant, they bravely set themselves to evangelize their entire territory? Then as to means at their command, either the First or Second Church of Charlotte is giving today far more for all purposes than all the churches of that day.

To what extent has the Presbytery, in the face of great difficulties and poverty of resources, succeeded in evangelizing its large territory? Let me answer this question by saying:

1st. There is not one of its original nineteen counties today without its Presbyterian Church.

2nd. The Presbytery of Concord transferred to the new Presbytery thirty-nine churches, five of these with ten members or less. Today, on the same territory, with Stanley county added from Concord Presbytery with one or two churches in 1879, and Richmond and Montgomery counties added from Fayetteville Presbytery in 1917 with fourteen churches, we have 146 churches against 39 in 1869.

3rd. The list of new churches organized since 1869 is a long list, and such their numerical strength and annual gifts

that these alone would make a strong Presbytery. They were organized in the following order:

Paper Mill	March 16th, 1873
Monroe	September 26th, 1873
Wadesboro	October 12th, 1873
Second Church, Charlotte	November 18th, 1873
Waynesville	November 27th, 1873
Pineville	December 20th, 1875
Matthews	February 10th, 1877
Huntersville	November 2nd, 1878
Bryson City	September 25th, 1881
Amity	June 17th, 1882
Gastonia	July 16th, 1882
Polkton	June 15th, 1883
Kings Mountain	April 5th, 1884
Williams Memorial	April 25th, 1885
Robinson	November 26th, 1887
Waxhaw	October 3rd, 1888
Mulberry	1888
Lowell	June 8th, 1889
Tenth Avenue, Charlotte	March 2nd, 1890
Newell	November 15th, 1890
Belmont	November 15th, 1890
Waco	February 21st, 1891
Dillsboro	April, 1891
Ironton	March 29th, 1891
Weaverton	April 12th, 1891
Banks	May 27th, 1891
Brevard	October 9th, 1891
Stanley Creek	November 27th, 1891
Cooks Memorial	December 18th, 1892
Beulah	May 1st, 1892
Nantahala (Center)	September 24th, 1892
Beaver Dam (Marshville)	April 13th, 1893
Altan	July 19th, 1893
Cherryville	September 10th, 1893
Forest City	November, 1893
Lattimore (Moresboro)	April 29th, 1894

Midway	October 18th, 1894
Columbus	April 9th, 1895
Salem	October 12th, 1895
Siler	October 2nd, 1895
Mt. Holly	September 1st, 1896
Henrietta	May 13th, 1896
Carmel	May 13th, 1896
Murphy	September 30th, 1896
Westminster, Charlotte	November 28th, 1897
Lebanon (Mecklenburg)	May 15th, 1898
Albemarle	March 18th, 1898
Bessemer City	June 18th, 1899
New London	November 19th, 1899
Seversville (Charlotte)	July 5th, 1903
Littles (Camden)	November 12th, 1904
St. Paul's (Charlotte)	May 13th, 1906
Lilesville	October 9th, 1901
Pegram Street (Charlotte)	October 6th, 1907
Porters	November 2nd, 1908
Walkersville	November 10th, 1908
Cornelius	April 27th, 1909
West Avenue (Charlotte)	August 16th, 1909
Groveton (Charlotte)	September 7th, 1909
Rehoboth	September 24th, 1911
Bethany	November 24th, 1912
Indian Trail	February, 1913
Peachland	July 21st, 1912
Knox (Charlotte)	April 4th, 1912
North Charlotte	June 2nd, 1912
Palestine	October 27th, 1913
Emmanuel	August 1st, 1913
McGee	April 27th, 1913
Wilmore (Charlotte)	January 10th, 1914
Oakboro	July 9th, 1914
Unionville	August 23rd, 1915
Rocky River	September 21st, 1916
Stanfield	April 1st, 1917
Aquadale	May 6th, 1917

Badin
Midland
Allen

March 18th, 1917
September 23rd, 1917
October 21st, 1917

Total, 77 new churches organized since 1869, not counting the new churches organized by Asheville and Kings Mountain Presbyteries. Some of the smallest of these churches have been disorganized. They are as follows: Paper Mill, Weaverton, Lebanon (in Mecklenburg), Groveton, Emmanuel, five churches with a combined membership of only about 125 members. Deducting these five dissolved churches we have 72 new churches remaining. These new churches alone, if brought together, would constitute a great Presbytery. That you may more fully appreciate this statement let me say they are served by 286 Elders, 310 Deacons, have 6,662 in Sabbath School and a communicant roll of 7,462. This Presbytery would be larger than many of our largest Presbyteries, larger than New Orleans with 4,792 communicants, or Louisville with 5,253 or Nashville with 5,850 or Memphis with 7,166 communicants. These new churches of Presbytery, not including the churches organized by Asheville and Kings Mountain Presbyteries, gave last year for all purposes not less than \$130,000.00.

The erection of suitable houses of worship for all these new churches demanded great labor and expense. The exact data as to the cost of each of these seventy-two new church buildings in city, town and country is not available, but when you include such buildings as Wadesboro, Monroe, Second Church, Charlotte, Tenth Avenue, Westminster, Knox Church, Charlotte; Belmont, First Church, Gastonia; Waynesville, Brevard and others, the average cost would be at least \$4,000.00 and the whole cost about \$300,000.00. But whatever the cost, church homes must be provided regardless of expense. Until this is done there is no guaranteed permanency. I call your attention to the fact that of these five new churches, finally dissolved, not one of them had a house of worship.

I may surprise you by stating that so far as I know there was not a manse in the Presbytery in 1869. How do we account for such a state of things? Previous to 1860 most of our ministers lived in the country, owning their own servants and cultivating their own farms, and much preferred to own their own homes. But with the new order of things after 1865 the manse became not only a great comfort to the pastor and his family, but a missionary necessity. Therefore, the fixed policy of the Presbytery has been to secure a manse for every church or group of churches. The result is that the following churches have manses: First Church, Charlotte, Second Church, Charlotte, Westminster, Knox, Pegram Street, Tenth Avenue, Sugar Creek, Mallard Creek, Steele Creek, Paw Creek, Central Steele Creek, Philadelphia, Matthews, Providence, Sharon, Pineville, Newell, Huntersville, Hopewell, Williams Memorial, Monroe, Waxhaw, Walkersville, Indian Trail, Unionville, Marshville, North Carolina, Hamlet, Norwood, Cornelius, Pageland, Mulberry, Bethel, Albemarle, Wadseboro, Mt. Gilead. In all there are thirty-six manses in the Presbytery, and if we add to these the number in Asheville and Kings Mountain, the greater part of these secured whilst they were part of Mecklenburg, we will have a total of fifty-seven manses against none in 1869. The aggregate value of these manses would be about \$175,000.00.

The training of an adequate ministry—adequate in numbers and efficiency—has ever been a great task of the Church of Christ. To this task our Lord gave a large part of His time and service on earth. The Presbytery of Mecklenburg has not neglected this important duty. When first organized the following candidates were assigned her from Concord Presbytery: C. N. Hutchinson, P. P. Maxwell, Chas. M. Douglas, George Summey and J. H. Morrison. Messrs. Hutchinson and Maxwell, for sufficient reason, did not enter the ministry. Mr. C. M. Douglas died before completing his studies. Rev. Geo. Summey, D.D., and Rev. James H. Morrison, D.D., after long and valuable service in the church, remain with us to this day. The first candidate received was James Walter Query, of Steele Creek Church, December

29th, 1870. The second candidate received was John Franklin Cannon, of Sharon Church, August 18th, 1871. The list of candidates, according to date of reception, is as follows :

J	W. B. Arrowood, Long Creek	October 11, 1872
	A. G. Buckner, Red Oak	October 24, 1873
	Jacob Roberts, Red Oak	October 24, 1873
	Geo. F. Robertson, Asheville	October 24, 1873
	Wm. E. McIlwain, Six Mile Creek	April 24, 1873
	E. P. Davis, Olney	April 17, 1874
<i>Bwa</i>	R. S. Arrowood, Long Creek	April 18, 1874
<i>2</i>	Alfred J. Morrison, Castanea Grove	April 16, 1874
	Elliott Way, Savannah Presbytery	September 23, 1876
	J. H. Dixon, Mallard Creek	June 21, 1877
	J. L. Williams, Hopewell	September 15, 1877
	J. C. Oehler, Ramah	May 2, 1879
	Walter W. Moore, 1st Church, Charlotte	May 2, 1879
	Jesse W. Siler, Franklin	April 16, 1881
	Chalmers Moore, Franklin	May 12, 1882
	Wm. H. Neel, 2nd Church, Charlotte	May 4, 1883
	M. A. Henderson, Castanea	May 4, 1883
	E. A. Sample, Hopewell	May 4, 1883
	Eugene L. Siler, Franklin	May 5, 1883
	W. B. Justus, Hendersonville	November 9, 1883
	R. L. Glenn, Gastonia	September 25, 1884
	John H. Johnston, Paw Creek	October 19, 1885
	J. A. McLaughlin, Wadesboro	August 28, 1885
	S. W. Spencer, Morven	August 28, 1885
	R. A. Torrance, Hopewell	September 30, 1886
	H. M. Dixon, Mallard Creek	October, 1886
	G. W. Belk, Monroe	September 22, 1886
	R. L. McNair, Swannanoa	September 22, 1886
	J. B. Swann, Steele Creek	September 22, 1886
	J. S. Morrow, Rutherfordton	1880
	W. J. Secrest, Waynesville	April 12, 1888
<i>I</i>	J. W. Moore, Hopewell	
	Joseph H. Hall, Goshen	July 25, 1888
	R. W. Alexander, Pineville	August 9, 1888

W. C. Underwood, New Hope	December 4, 1888
J. H. Grey, Huntersville	March 18, 1888
Luther H. Query, Mallard Creek	April 10, 1889
John R. Wilson, 2nd, Charlotte	April 12, 1889
Henry J. Rees, Waynesville	September 11, 1889
E. Douglas Brown, Steele Creek	September 11, 1889
W. M. Hunter, Huntersville	September 28, 1889
R. Junius Hunter, Mallard Creek	November 26, 1889
Joseph D. Taylor, (Col.) Asheville	December 17, 1889
John H. Patterson, (Col.) Asheville	December 17, 1889
John Yandle, Providence	April 22, 1890
Luther A. Oates, 2nd, Charlotte	July 31, 1890
<u>M. C.</u> Arrowood, Long Creek	April 16, 1891
C. F. Hunter, Huntersville	May 15, 1891
R. C. Morrison, Morven	September 1, 1891
J. M. W. Elder, 1st, Charlotte	September 1, 1891
W. O. Sample, Sharon	September 1, 1891
D. F. Hunter, Sugar Creek	September 1, 1891
W. L. Walker, Huntersville	September 1, 1891
W. W. Williams, Mills River	September 16, 1891
A. Nick Hunter, Huntersville	November 15, 1892
C. C. Orr, Sugar Creek	November 15, 1892
H. M. Parker	April 14, 1893
R. J. McIlwain, Banks	May 9, 1893
S. L. Cathey, Paw Creek	September 8, 1893
C. H. Little, Williams Memorial	September 8, 1893
Carson Irvin, Rutherfordton	September 8, 1893
R. S. Eskridge, Shelby	September 8, 1893
J. M. Forbis, Philadelphia	April 11, 1894
D. M. Abernethy, Hopewell	May 10, 1894
J. C. Griffin, Philadelphia	May 10, 1894
<u>Bro</u> F. M. Hawley, Polkton	September 12, 1894
<u>T</u> S. W. Moore, Hopewell	October 16, 1894
J. E. Lawing, Paw Creek	April 10, 1895
W. J. Garrison, Pineville	December, 1893
H. L. Cathey, Steele Creek	April 3, 1896
Boyce Robinson, Steele Creek	April 3, 1896
Rolston Morrison, Castanea	April 3, 1896

L. A. Bennett, Huntersville	May 13, 1896
H. W. Hoon, Forest City	May 13, 1896
F. B. Rankin, Stanley Creek	November 2, 1896
J. E. Flow, Mallard Creek	April 12, 1897
J. H. Underwood, Hopewell	April 12, 1897
J. E. Brown, 1st Charlotte	August 16, 1897
D. S. Craig, Union	October 7, 1897
R. H. Morrison Brown, 1st Charlotte	May 17, 1898
S. E. Hodges, Robinson	September 28, 1898
Lawrence Yandle, Providence	November 7, 1899
H. W. Shannon, Gastonia	October 3, 1900
C. W. Allison, Sugar Creek	October 4, 1900
J. G. Walker, (Col.) 1st Charlotte	December 18, 1900
E. D. Kerr, Carmel	October 9, 1901
A. R. Harrison, Huntersville	October 9, 1901
Lynn Howland, Westminster	October 10, 1901
R. L. Walkup, Waxhaw	April 16, 1902
W. M. Walsh, 1st Charlotte	August 16, 1897
F. L. Higdon, Abingdon Presbytery	May 26, 1898
W. H. Nicholson, Sharon	August 25, 1903
L. W. Matthews, Providence	July 27, 1903
Geo. P. Stevens, Matthews	July 27, 1903
F. W. Gray, Williams Memorial	July 27, 1903
A. T. Walker, Tenth Avenue	October 20, 1903
W. A. Ramsey, Hopewell	September 2, 1904
John W. Grier, Central Steele Creek	September 2, 1904
A. S. Crowell	September 19, 1904
J. A. McMurray, Philadelphia	October 18, 1904
J. H. Abernethy, 2nd Charlotte	January 6, 1906
B. A. Benfield, Mallard Creek	October 11, 1906
R. M. Pegram, Steele Creek	July 8, 1907
W. E. West, Montgomery Presbytery	September 23, 1906
R. M. Tarlton, Philadelphia	April 16, 1907
T. J. Hutchinson, 2nd Charlotte	May 13, 1907
L. C. Campbell, Paw Creek	May 13, 1907
W. T. Mann, Philadelphia	January 9, 1908
C. M. Campbell, Paw Creek	January 9, 1908
John McDowell, Steele Creek	June 29, 1908

B. B. Long, Philadelphia	October 7, 1908
W. C. Jamison, 2nd Charlotte	May 4, 1909
Locke White, St. Paul's	May 4, 1909
J. C. Boyd, Tenth Avenue	May 4, 1909
R. C. Long, Philadelphia	June 8, 1909
J. H. McEwen, Philadelphia	June 8, 1909
T. Frank Grier, Central Steele Creek	June 8, 1909
Julius Horton, Salem	September 7, 1909
W. C. McLaughlin, Wadesboro	September 7, 1909
S. A. Ewart, Huntersville	September 7, 1909
R. L. Forbis, Groveton	September 7, 1909
S. M. Wolfe, Albemarle	September 7, 1909
Eugene Alexander, Sharon	April 10, 1910
H. N. Alexander, Davidson	April 10, 1910
J. H. Satterfield, Groveton	April 19, 1910
W. W. Pharr, 2nd Charlotte	May 24, 1910
J. A. McQueen, Morven	September 13, 1910
Walter Martin, Groveton	September 13, 1910
T. T. Stixrud, 2nd Charlotte	September 5, 1911
O. C. Williams, Steele Creek	April 10, 1912
T. A. Smith, Bethlehem	September 18, 1912
Albert J. Harris, Pineville	October 6, 1912
B. F. Handle, 1st Charlotte	September 16, 1913
J. G. Caldwell, Ramah	1913
R. W. Robinson, Steele Creek	September 17, 1913
<u>W. J. Hunneycutt, Locust</u>	April 27, 1913
<u>J. Newton Hunneycutt, Locust</u>	April 27, 1913
A. R. Howland, Sugar Creek	August 12, 1913
J. L. Neely, Pleasant Hill	August 12, 1913
S. B. Hay, Cornelius	April 15, 1914
Martin Holden, Bethany	October 1, 1914
Frank Davis, Amity	January 4, 1915
J. W. Miller, Sherrill's Ford	January 4, 1915
W. C. Berryhill, Steele Creek	April 14, 1915
W. C. Neal, Steele Creek	April 14, 1915
F. R. Spratt, Steele Creek	April 14, 1915
W. C. Williams, Matthews	June 22, 1915
Peyton Davenport, Steele Creek	June 22, 1915

Coyt Hunter, Williams Memorial	June 22, 1915
J. F. Pharr, 2nd Charlotte	June 22, 1915
Guy Neely, Central Steele Creek	June 22, 1915
Carlisle Thomas, Central Steele Creek	August 28, 1915
J. L. Griggs, Salem	August 28, 1915
Clayton Alexander, Sharon	August 28, 1915
T. R. Alexander, Providence	April 11, 1916
R. C. Clontz, Bethlehem	April 11, 1916
John B. Belk, Knox	January 10, 1916
W. P. Andrews, 1st, Charlotte	September 6, 1916
D. C. Young, Knox	September 6, 1916
C. G. Brown, Steele Creek	September 6, 1916
J. S. Price, Unionville	September 6, 1916
R. D. Freeman, Steele Creek	May 15, 1916
C. J. Walsh, St. Paul's	September 18, 1916
Z. V. Robinson, Orange Presbytery	April, 1917
C. G. Long, Philadelphia	September 17, 1918
R. S. Woodson, Wadesboro	November 19, 1918
W. L. Baker, Paw Creek	July 12, 1918
C. H. Rowan, Fayetteville Presbytery	May 28, 1917
D. C. Stogner, Roberdel	October 26, 1916
S. P. Lentz, Paris Presbytery	November 10, 1904
Claud Pepper, Fayette Presbytery	
D. C. Williamson, Steele Creek	
Guy E. Weeks, 2nd Charlotte	September 17, 1919

The following ministers were members of our churches but for convenience were received as candidates by other Presbyteries: Rev. W. T. Matthews, D.D., was a member of Providence Church, Rev. R. S. Burwell was a member of the First Church, Charlotte, and Rev. George H. Atkinson was a member of the Second Church, Charlotte. All of these young men did not enter the ministry, but from this number the Presbytery has trained and sent forth consecrated ministers of the Gospel into every Synod of our church. Some of them have heard the call to service in foreign lands and are today laboring in China and Japan and Korea whilst quite a number in these fifty years have heard

the call to lay down their earthly ministry that they might complete it in the church above. If our Presbytery had done nothing else but raise up in our families these men and train and send them forth to preach the Gospel it would not have lived and served in vain.

Two families of this Presbytery have been especially honored by giving three sons each to the ministry. Mr. William Arrowood, an Elder of Long Creek Church, was the father of Rev. W. B. Arrowood, D.D., Rev. R. S. Arrowood and Rev. M. C. Arrowood. Mr. John W. Moore, long an Elder in Hope-well and Huntersville Churches, is the father of Rev. John W. Moore, of our Japan Mission, Rev. Samuel W. Moore, of Bluefield, West Virginia, and Rev. L. L. Moore, of Taylorsville, N. C.



The Presbytery of Mecklenburg and Synod's Evangelistic Work

October 23rd, 1888, was a great day for North Carolina Presbyterianism, for on that notable day the Synod's evangelistic work had its birth. And it was not born a day too soon. A full century of Presbyterian opportunity in the state had come and gone. The Synod of North Carolina was organized in 1812 and Presbyterianism in the state was at this time more than 75 years old and during this time had rendered excellent service along many lines. But it evidently had failed to evangelize the state in a way commensurate with its opportunities. In 1888 Orange Presbytery, the mother Presbytery of the state, reported to Synod that it embraced forty counties and parts of counties and in twenty of these there was not a single organized church of our faith and order. At the same time there were ninety-four counties in the state and thirty-one of these were without a Presbyterian Church and fifteen counties had only one church each, making a total of forty-six counties practically without Presbyterian ministrations—nearly one-half of the state uninfluenced by our church. After more than 100 years of Presbyterianism in the state we had in 1888 one hundred and twenty-two ministers, two hundred and sixty-two churches and less than 23,000 communicants. Faced by such facts a number of ministers and elders met in Goldsboro a day previous to the meeting of Synod, and spent the whole day in prayer and earnest study of the whole question of state evangelization, and the day following they memorialized Synod to take immediate action. Their aggressive plans were unanimously and heartily adopted. And with what results? From that day to this we have had a new Synod. Every year has marked decided progress. The following counties have been entered by our evangelists and occupied

by one or more organized churches: Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Brunswick, Cherokee, Chowan, Graham, Hyde, Martin, Mitchell, Person, Stokes, Pitt, Watauga, Yancy, fifteen counties, in all, added to the domain of Presbyterianism in the state. There is not a county today without its Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg Presbytery or Asheville, or King Mountain, or Concord, or Orange, or Fayetteville, or Wilmington. There remain thirteen unoccupied counties in the state, and all of these are in Albemarle Presbytery. In thirty years the work has grown from one man employed to thirty-nine, from \$3,700.00 raised in 1888 to \$22,000.00 in 1918. More than one hundred churches have been organized and almost two hundred Sabbath Schools. Thirty-four thousand persons have confessed their faith in Christ and eighteen thousand have united with the Presbyterian Church. In these thirty years our people in the state have given more than a quarter of a million dollars to sustain this work and have been amply repaid. This work has greatly aided in carrynig our communicant roll in the state from 23,000 to more than 50,000, so that numerically, at least, we are the banner Synod of the General Assembly. And from the beginning of this work our Presbytery has borne an honorable part. Whilst the Synod hesitated as to what ought to be done or could be done to overtake the destitutions of the state, your representative men insisted in 1888 that unprofitable discussion ought to immediately end, and the conquest of the state begin. This was done by the prompt action of all the Presbyteries of Synod. Every year for thirty years this Presbytery has contributed to the support of this work. The full amount cannot be accurately stated, but I am safe in saying that the Presbytery has given for Synod's work at least \$40,000.00 in annual contributions. And not only have our members given regularly to Synodical Home Missions, but some have remembered this cause in their deaths. Mr. S. P. Alexander of the First Church, Charlotte, bequeathed \$5,000.00. Mrs. Harriet Reading, of Charlotte, \$4,615.85, and Mr. John C. Burroughs, elder of the First Church, Charlotte, \$30,000.00, making in all about \$80,-

000.00 given by this Presbytery. But our largest contribution to Synod work has been the twenty-five years' work of Rev. Wm. Black. He was licensed by Fayetteville Presbytery in 1893 and in the same year he was ordained by Mecklenburg Presbytery and was immediately employed by the Presbytery and Synod's committee as a local evangelist in Union and Anson counties. In January, 1894, he was elected Superintendent of Synodical Home Missions and general evangelist. And since that time his labors have been wonderfully blessed. Dr. Craig in his book on "Presbyterianism in North Carolina," published in 1907 says "Rev. Wm. Black has held more than 4,000 services. He has witnessed the confession of several thousand persons and more than 4,000 of these have joined the Presbyterian Church. He has organized a dozen or more Presbyterian Churches and as many Sunday Schools."

From 1908 to 1919 as evangelist of the Synod he has held 280 series of meetings, preached 4,480 times, conducted scores of other services, including several evangelistic institutes for the Synod. In these meetings there were fifteen thousand professions of Christ and of these about five thousand joined the Presbyterian Church. Some fifteen thousand persons promised to establish family worship, and more than that number to read the Bible and pray daily. In addition to the above, he has raised about \$15,000.00 for religious causes. Rev. Wm. Black stands in a class by himself in the Synod of North Carolina for the length and fruitfulness of his evangelistic labors.

But the Presbytery of Mecklenburg has by no means performed her full duty towards the evangelization of the state of North Carolina. Much land remains to be possessed. We have only fairly begun our great task, and must not rest content until every county, town and township in North Carolina has its well established Presbyterian Church or Churches.

Mecklenburg Presbytery and Its Country Churches

When Cornwallis passed through this country lying between the Yadkin and Catawba rivers, there were at least seven country churches, Sugar Creek, Steele Creek, Providence, Hopewell, Rocky River, Poplar Tent and Center. These seven churches were then in Mecklenburg county except a part of Center, which lay in Rowan (now Iredell). The boundaries of these congregations were fixed as early as 1765 and their influence in church and state for one hundred and fifty years has been very great. Out of these churches came the men who framed the first declaration of independence in America, and from that day to this these churches have been strongholds of intelligence, patriotism and religion. A little study of the early history of Presbyterianism in the Carolinas make clear the following: These country churches were first in the order of time. When they were organized there were no town churches in the state. There was no Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville until 1800, none in Salisbury until 1826 and none in Charlotte or Wilmington until long after the Revolutionary war.

In the second place for a long period they were first in the order of importance. In point of members, wealth, and influence, they surpassed all the town churches of that day. As a proof of this the following facts are in order. First. the best schools were then located in these old country churches. I need only refer to Providence Academy, established in 1800; Rocky River Academy, established by Dr. John McKamie Wilson; Caldwell Institute, founded by Dr. Caldwell in Buffalo congregation; Dr. McCorkle's school in Thyatira, founded in 1785; Queen's Museum in Charlotte, then a promising mission station of old Sugar Creek Church.

And as late as 1837 Davidson College was located in the country in the bounds of Center Church.

The primacy of these old country churches was evident from another fact. The Synod of the Carolinas was organized in old Center Church in 1788 and for thirty-seven years met invariably in country churches with only one exception. Add to this the fact that many of the very foremost preachers and theologians of that day freely gave their whole lives to these great country churches.

But some one replies that "times have changed" and the country churches are no longer what they were 50 or 100 years ago, that the "glory has departed" from the country church, that the country church has ceased to be a controlling factor in the religious life of the nation. Its main effort today is to keep from dying. The scepter of leadership, moral, intellectual, and spiritual, is passing to the city churches. This admission is heard on every "missionary platform," in "rural surveys," and "re-echoed in all the missionary literature of the day." Some tell us that investigators found 800 abandoned village and country churches in Ohio and 1500 in Illinois. That a part of this is true I do not question, but I am happy to say that our old country churches in this Piedmont country have been saved from any such a fate. What are the historic facts in the case? When this Presbytery was organized in 1869 we had on our roll in Mecklenburg county the following country churches: Sugar Creek, Steele Creek, Paw Creek, Hopewell, Mallard Creek, Philadelphia, Providence, Sharon, Pleasant Hill and Ramah. Bethel and Central Steele Creek were received later, the former from Concord Presbytery and the latter from the A. R. P. Church. In Gaston county, Olney, Union, Long Creek, Goshen, New Hope. In Lincoln county, Unity, Castanea Grove, Machpelah. In Rutherford county, Britain Church. In Polk county, Sandy Plains. In Henderson county, Mills River. In Transylvania county, Davidson River. In Haywood county, Bethel. In Macon county, Morrison. In Clay county, Hiawassee. In Buncome county,

Oak Forest and Swannanoa. In Union county, Bethlehem. In Anson county, Lebanon. Here are twenty-nine country churches committed to our care in 1869. **And not one of them has been disorganized. All of them are on our roll today.** Some of these were small at the beginning and are small yet. But on the whole **decided progress** has been made in our country churches. In 1869 the combined membership of these twenty-nine churches was 2,869. Today their combined membership is over 4,000. These country churches have made possible the organization of the following **new country churches**: Mulberry, Robinson, Amity, Carmel, Cooks Memorial, Williams Memorial, Banks, Siler and others with a membership of at least 1,000. They greatly aided in organizing and building up the following town churches: Huntersville, Matthews, Pineville, Newell, Monroe, Waxhaw, Lowell, Belmont, Mt. Holly, Gastonia, Loray, Kings Mountain, Bessemer City, West Asheville, Canton, Bryson City, Waynesville, Brevard and others with a combined membership of at least 3,000. This contribution from the country churches to help organize the town churches will be appreciated when I tell you that the First Church, Gastonia, was organized in 1882 with 26 members and all of them from neighboring country churches. And Huntersville was organized in 1878 with 46 members, 44 of these from Ramah Church and two from Hopewell.

And what can I say, what ought I to say as to the service rendered by these country churches in multiplying our strength in the city of Charlotte? In 1869 we had only one church in Charlotte with 260 members. Today we have twelve churches and about 4,000 members. The city has grown in 50 years from 5,000 or 6,000 to 50,000 or 60,000 inhabitants. Our church has grown in organizations twelve fold and in church members fifteen fold.

What has so largely contributed to this rapid growth of our church in the city of Charlotte? The excellent system of public schools, the presence of Queens College, the large opportunities for business and especially the best of church

privileges, have proven very attractive to our country people. They have moved their homes to Charlotte in great numbers and in many cases to their advantage. The Second Church, Charlotte, is one of the greatest churches in our General Assembly. It has grown from thirty-one members in 1873 to more than eleven hundred resident members in 1919. Few churches in America have a larger or more efficient corps of officers than this church. It has 47 officers, 22 elders and 25 deacons. And where were these men born and reared? Only three of the 25 deacons were reared in town and all the elders were born and reared in the country churches of their fathers. And the pastor, Dr. McGeachey, belongs to this roll of honor, as he was born and reared in St. Paul's Church, in Robeson county, in Fayetteville Presbytery, received into full communion in his tenth year and licensed to preach by Fayetteville Presbytery.



The Evangelistic Work in Union County

The story of the Home Mission work of the Presbytery would be incomplete without a reference to the work in Union county. This county was formed from parts of Mecklenburg and Anson in 1844 with Monroe as the county seat. Somewhere between 1850 and 1855 a Presbyterian Church was organized in Monroe with twelve members, and four elders were elected. These elders were D. F. Hadin, Aaron Stegall, F. C. Williams and Mr. Alexander. For some reason unknown, this new church in a new county and a new town was permitted to die. And for twenty years or more there was no Presbyterian Church in Monroe and only one small country church of forty members in the county under our care. During these dark days it really seemed that if there ever was an opportunity for Presbyterianism in Union county that day had passed. The field appeared to be thoroughly occupied by other denominations. But the growth of Monroe, the building of new railways, the springing up of new towns along these lines, the incoming of Presbyterians seeking business and homes, ushered in a brighter day for our church. The Presbytery was not slow to take advantage of new conditions. In 1873 Evangelist, Rev. S. C. Alexander, organized the present Monroe Church with thirteen members and two elders, Col. Samuel H. Walkup and Wm. H. Fitzgerald. From this date to the present the following churches have been organized in Union county: Waxhaw, in 1888; Banks, in 1891; Beulah, 1892; Altan, 1893; Marshville, 1893; Siler, 1895; Salem, 1895; Walkersville, 1908; Rehoboth, 1911; Bethany, 1912; Indian Trail, 1913; Unionville, 1915, and Rocky River, in 1916. In this connection the Presbytery of Mecklenburg makes grateful recognition of assistance rendered in its mission work by a great old country

church known as Tirzah, located in the southern part of the county, and a part of its members living in Lancaster county, South Carolina. Its history runs back for more than one hundred years and it has become the Mother of Churches. It has added materially to the membership and officers of Waxhaw and Monroe Churches, whilst the Unity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and our Walkersville Church are colonies from this old historic church. Counting this church and Bethlehem Church of about forty members there were two churches in Union county in 1869. Today there are 18 within the limits of the county and two others organized on the border lines, making twenty churches in the Union county work against two churches in 1869.

The increase in the value of church property in Union county in 50 years has been surprising. In 1869 the property of Bethlehem and Tirzah did not exceed \$4,000. Today the value of church property is as follows:

Altan	\$ 7,500.00
Bethany	2,500.00
Unionville Church	3,000.00
Unionville Manse	3,000.00
Rehoboth Church	5,000.00
Waxhaw Church	3,000.00
Waxhaw Manse	3,000.00
Tirzah Church	2,500.00
Tirzah Manse	2,500.00
Banks Church	7,000.00
Siler Church	7,000.00
Indian Trail Church	3,000.00
Indian Trail Manse	3,000.00
Bethlehem Church	1,000.00
Marshville Church	2,500.00
Marshville Manse	1,100.00
Salem Church	2,500.00
Pageland Church	5,000.00
Pageland Manse	2,000.00
Monroe Church	30,000.00
Monroe Manse	3,000.00
Walkersville Church	3,000.00
Walkersville Manse	3,000.00
Midland Church	1,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$106,000.00

Mecklenburg and Her Two New Presbyteries—Asheville and Kings Mountain

This Presbytery has always taken a special interest in its mountain country. This interest was manifested in the very beginning of its history. At its very first regular meeting at Steele Creek Church April, 1870, its first standing rule was that all its Fall meetings should be held in its mountain country, and this rule was faithfully observed for years. This partiality was costly. It called for sacrifices of time, labor and expense with which few of us are acquainted today. There were then no automobiles, no macadam roads, no railroads and in some cases scarcely any roads of any kind. And yet, the Presbytery, to save nine or ten little churches in those eleven mountain counties, with less than 400 members, and to build up the cause of Christ in that beautiful "Land of the Sky," would, in a body, visit its mountain churches once every year. Strong men were sent there to hold meetings or to labor permanently as pastors or evangelists at the expense of the stronger churches of the east. But the Mother Presbytery has had her rich reward in seeing one church after another grow into self-support and become helpers to others. The growth of the First Church, Asheville, would alone justify all our expenditures in that region. In 1869 it had 83 members and 60 pupils in the Sunday School and gave for all purposes including pastors salary less than \$2,500.00. Today that church under the wise leadership of its pastor, Dr. R. F. Campbell, has become a mighty spiritual force in the Presbytery of Asheville and the new Synod of Apalachia. It is served by 19 elders and 21 deacons, has 862 resident members and gave last year for Foreign Missions \$2,657.00, for

Home Missions (all branches) \$3,695.00, and for all purposes \$22,500.00. Dr. D. I. Craig in his excellent book, "Synodical Home Missions in North Carolina," very correctly says, "There have been great transformations in that part of the country in the last ten or twelve years and whatever of good has resulted in this region from Presbyterianism through evangelistic efforts a large share of that good is due to the earnest missionary spirit and great liberality of the First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, under the able leadership of its beloved pastor, Rev. R. F. Campbell, D.D. And in conjunction with this church, due credit should be given for the success achieved to Rev. R. P. Smith and Rev. E. MacDavis." And be it remembered that when the Presbytery of Mecklenburg sent away the brethren that they might form the new Presbytery of Asheville, they were followed with her prayers and benedictions. Among the records of Presbytery I find this: "Resolved that \$1,000.00 be given to the Presbytery of Asheville and that we pay for one-half of the time of Rev. R. P. Smith, their evangelist." The response of the Presbytery of Asheville to such thoughtful consideration was in such a beautiful spirit and so beautifully expressed that I quote it entire: "The Presbytery of Asheville desires to express to the Mother Presbytery our deep appreciation of the continual parental love and fostering care manifested by her in not only extending for another period of three years, but also in increasing her original contribution to our mission work. Hearts are warmed and hands made strong for labor in the Master's vineyard by this evidence of your sympathy and helpfulness of spirit. May the God of all grace grant you peace in all your borders and prosperity in all your churches! May He return to you with rich usury all that you may put into His treasury for the extension of His empire over the hearts and lives of our mountain kindred." This Presbytery was organized November 12th, 1896, and held its first meeting in the First Church, Asheville, December 2nd, 1896, with Rev. E. A. Sample, Moderator.

The Presbytery of Kings Mountain was set off from the Presbytery of Mecklenburg October 23rd, 1902, and held its first meeting in Lincolnton, November 18th, 1902, Rev. R. A. Miller presiding by direction of Synod.

The territory of this new presbytery embraced the counties of Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk. The organization of these two new Presbyteries within six years of each other deprived Mecklenburg of sixteen of her twenty counties, leaving only four counties, Mecklenburg, Union, Anson and Stanley. The growth of the churches in the territory of Kings Mountain Presbytery for the last fifty years has been constant and in some cases rapid. In 1869 in these five counties composing Kings Mountain Presbytery there were fifteen churches with 910 communicants. Today on the same territory there are 40 churches with 3,500 communicants. There has been growth in all these counties but especially in Gaston county where fifty years ago there was a combined membership of 488 in six churches, Goshen, New Hope, Olney, Union, Long Creek, and Dallas, whilst today there are 16 churches in Gaston county with more than 2,000 members. This rapid growth is to be accounted for by the presence of strong country churches, such as Olney, Union and New Hope, which after aiding in the organization of such new churches as Belmont, Lowell, and Gastonia are larger today than at any time in their history. Growth was made possible also by the building of the largest number of cotton mills that is to be found in any single county in the state. This great enterprise brought both capital and population. A third cause of Presbyterian growth in Gaston county was the unusual growth of the town of Gastonia. In 1882 this was one of the small towns of the state with not more than 500 inhabitants. Here on July 16th, 1882, we organized the first church in the place with 26 members all from neighboring country churches. Today the little town has become one of the growing cities of the state and the First Presbyterian Church is one of the strongest and most active churches in the Synod. The last report from that church is as follows: Elders, 20; Deacons,

24; resident members, 817; in Sabbath School, 834, with contributions for Foreign Missions, \$3,000.00; Assembly's Home Missions, \$883.00; Synod's Home Missions, \$226.00; Presbytery's Home Missions, \$605.00; Congregational Home Missions, \$1,023.00. And for all causes this church gave last year \$14,571.00. The Presbytery aided this church in building its first house of worship. Has not this investment yielded an immense revenue?

In concluding this part of the subject, let me say that if Mecklenburg and her two daughters, Asheville and Kings Mountain Presbyteries, were united in a Synod, such Synod would not only be larger than any of our Missionary Synods such as Arkansas, Florida, and West Virginia, but it would have over 16,000 members, and would thus be larger than either of the Synods of Missouri, Tennessee or Kentucky.



The Policy of the Presbytery

As we turn the pages of this history the question arises what has been the policy of the Presbytery in prosecuting its work. There is no difficulty in answering this question. The facts are before us:

1st. It has been the policy of self-help. When twelve out of nineteen of her counties were practically destitute of Presbyterianism and her entire Home Mission fund was less than \$3,000.00, not more than enough to employ two or three Missionaries for the twelve counties, to say nothing of a large number of vacant churches, this Presbytery determined to prosecute her great task and to ask for no help from Synod or General Assembly. And from this policy of self-help it never departed. The records show that it has received small sums from the Synod to aid in supporting some of its Evangelists or in building some of its Mission Churches, but it returned these amounts to the Synod in annual contributions of perhaps ten dollars for one received.

2nd. The Presbytery has always placed high honors upon the Evangelist as a divinely appointed officer of the church. It has never discriminated between him and the Pastor to the discredit of the Evangelist. At its very first regular meeting it appointed an able committee to promptly secure an evangelist. It had no funds in sight to support him but in due time the Evangelist was found and his salary was paid. His first work was to organize churches in Wadesboro and Monroe and to erect houses of worship. And the Presbytery did not make the greivous mistake of sending inefficient and unacceptable men into its mission field as evangelists because they could not be used anywhere else. In other words, she did not make the mission fields a dumping ground for all the misfits in the ministry. The roll of her evangelists will show that they were the peers of their

brethren in every respect. I need only mention a few of them, Dr. S. C. Alexander, Rev. Wm. H. Davis, Rev. Alfred J. Morrison, Rev. M. R. Kirkpatrick, Dr. A. G. Buckner, Rev. E. E. Ervin, Rev. S. Taylor Martin, Dr. R. P. Smith, and others. And the evangelists who are now serving you, Rev. Leonard Gill, Rev. R. J. McIlwain, and others, are wise master builders in your mission fields today. The history of Presbyterianism in the state and the United States cannot be written without telling the wonderful story of the evangelist and his work for more than 150 years.

3rd. The Presbytery has strongly favored the conservative use of the revival meeting in its churches and mission fields. The protracted meeting was looked forward to in all our country churches, especially, as the one great event of the year. Great preparations were made. Hospitality was unbounded. The services usually began on Friday morning with two sermons each day. And where did they find preachers for all these protracted meetings? Did they import them from a distance? Did they send for some noted Synodical Evangelist? And if they failed to secure one from the Synod did they postpone their August meeting until they could get a more noted Evangelist of the General Assembly? They did nothing of the kind. The men who founded this Presbytery knew how to preach and they knew how to preach at a protracted meeting and, as Pastors, they multiplied their usefulness by assisting each other on these great revival occasions. Dr. A. W. Miller was one of the greatest preachers of his age and could easily have filled any pulpit in America. And yet it was his delight every summer to spend his vacation in our mountain country. The news of his arrival soon spread to the remotest coves of the mountains. And when he preached on the following Sabbath our little churches could hold only a fraction of the great gathering. Years have passed but Dr. Miller is still lovingly remembered among our mountain people. He was called the "apostle of the mountains," and richly deserved this honor. Rev. Walter W. Pharr was a great favorite among the churches in conducting their protracted meetings.

He loved to preach the gospel and was in his glory in a revival service. No man was in greater demand to assist the pastors by doing all the preaching himself. Rev. G. D. Parks, long pastor of Sugar Creek Church, believed in revivals, prayed earnestly for them in his own church and shared abundantly in their blessings. He once told me of a revival beginning in Sugar Creek Church in December, 1874, and continuing for a whole year. His closing sentence was this: "Our third communion was administered on the 4th Sabbath of October, at which time 20 members were added to the church, which makes 44 added on examination since our communion in April. This precious work of grace extended to other congregations and its happy effects upon Sugar Creek are seen to this day in the piety of many." I would like to speak of other great meetings conducted by these evangelistic pastors, of the meeting at Union Church in 1878 when 47 persons were received into the church on profession of faith, of the meeting at Swannanoa church conducted by Licentiate W. W. Moore and Rev. J. P. Gammon in 1880, when 44 members were received on profession to a church of only 40 members, thus more than doubling its membership and greatly multiplying its spiritual power. But time fails me to tell of all these precious seasons of grace. It would take a volume to include all these meetings and the pastors who so ably conducted them.

4th. Whilst it has persistently refused to receive help from Synod or General Assembly, it has never failed to help others. There has been no patience in this Presbytery with a narrow, selfish policy. It has set its seal to the truth that "The church that ceases to be evangelistic will soon cease to be evangelical, and the church that fails to live abroad will soon die at home." It has accepted the additional statement, "There is a scattering that increaseth and there is a withholding that tendereth unto poverty." Before I close this address I shall tell you something about what it has done for the Synod's Home Mission work, the Assembly's Home Mission Work, Foreign Missions, our Orphans' Home and education. And when this story is told no one can say that the churches of this Presbytery have lived simply for themselves.

The Presbytery and the Orphans' Home

It is somewhat remarkable that two great state-wide enterprises should originate at the same meeting of Synod, but such is the case. At the meeting of Synod in Goldsboro in 1888, Synodical evangelism took definite form and the Orphans' Home became one of the permanent institutions of the Synod. The matter was called to the attention of Synod by an overture from the lady managers of the "Home and Hospital" in Charlotte, N. C. This memorial was referred to a commission of which Rev. J. Rumple, D.D., was made chairman on the adoption of the following resolution offered by a member of this Presbytery:

"Resolved, That in the judgment of this Synod the time has come to take steps looking to the establishing of an Orphans' Home within our bounds and that a commission be appointed to take the whole matter in charge, to consider and execute whatever may seem wise and practicable in putting such an enterprise on a permanent basis."

This movement was most timely, and met with a hearty response in all parts of the Synod. The result is that the continued and ever increasing growth of our Orphans' Home has been most gratifying. Beginning without any assets in 1888, today, according to recent data from the superintendent, Rev. W. T. Walker, the Home owns 500 acres of land. There are seventeen buildings, thirteen of brick and four of wood, on the campus of the Home, and six or seven other buildings on land adjacent to the Home. This property has cost about \$130,000.00 and is easily worth \$200,000.00 today. The endowment fund has reached \$36,000.00, with \$30,000.00 more to be added to this amount. The Home is now caring for 230 children, all who can be accommodated with the present equipment. Of this number, 116 are members of our church. Since this Home was opened it has

cared for about 1,000 children, and of that number only eight deaths have occurred in the Home. Now what has Mecklenburg Presbytery done to found and foster this institution so dear to North Carolina Presbyterians. Our people manifested a deep interest from the beginning, the ladies of Charlotte leading the way. The first superintendent of the Home was Rev. R. W. Boyd, of Unity and Castanea Churches, who guided for years with great wisdom and tact the affairs of the Home and did not leave it until its success was assured. It has been difficult to determine with accuracy what this Presbytery has given to equip and support the Home. For years, at the Home and in the minutes of Synod, donors were not given credit by Presbyteries. So by taking the amounts given by the Presbytery for the last eighteen years I find the average per year amounts to over \$3,000.00, and this multiplied by thirty, the number of years since the Home was established, and we have the total of \$90,000.00. The Home has had such a warm place in the hearts of our people that they not only gave to it whilst they lived but remembered it in their deaths.

Mr. James H. Carson, of the First Church, Charlotte, bequeathed the Home, January, 1907, \$1,000.00; Mr. S. P. Alexander, of the First Church, to erect the Industrial building, gave \$4,000.00; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Burroughs, of the First Church, to erect the Art building, gave \$3,500.00, whilst the large legacy left by Mr. J. C. Burroughs to the Home will perhaps amount to \$40,000.00.

Members Received

By Mecklenburg, Asheville and Kings Mountain
Presbyteries on Examination and Certificate
in the Last Fifty Years

MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERY

Year	On Examination	On Certificate
1870	112	70
1871	82	65
1872	137	33
1873	155	86
1874	237	127
1875	126	101
1876	168	76
1877	206	132
1878	227	115
1879	259	97
1880	134	87
1881	114	97
1882	318	185
1883	248	180
1884	226	190
1885	323	164
1886	425	223
1887	467	225
1888	430	272
1889	293	215
1890	477	331
1891	552	329
1892	374	341
1893	441	262
1894	659	389
1895	483	380
1896	415	331
1897	377	249
1898	341	373
1899	312	327
1900	352	457

Year	On Examination	On Certificate
1901	339.....	390
1902	359.....	327
1903	223.....	320
1904	659.....	389
1905	283.....	268
1906	402.....	307
1907	263.....	348
1908	425.....	348
1909	419.....	388
1910	206.....	464
1911	395.....	284
1912	268.....	347
1913	458.....	498
1914	318.....	358
1915	566.....	427
1916	894.....	581
1917	514.....	575
1918	264.....	369
1919	350.....	479
	17,075	13,976

ASHEVILLE PRESBYTERY

Received by Asheville Presbytery on examination and certificate since its organization in 1896:

Year	On Examination	On Certificate
1897	65	75
1898	115	79
1899	98	51
1900	103	64
1901	55	90
1902	79	55
1903	88	79
1904	66	75
1905	63	74
1906	126	109
1907	30	89
1908	75	104
1909	61	159
1910	168	163
1911	74	100
1912	61	108
1913	69	134
1914	157	133
1915	99	133
1916	208	183
1917	153	145
1918	80	94
1919	88	118
	2,181	2,414

KINGS MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERY

Received on examination and certificate by King's Mountain Presbytery since its organization in 1902:

Year	On Examination	On Certificate
1903	130.....	113
1904	156.....	137
1905	170.....	105
1906	142.....	147
1907	94.....	139
1908	103.....	166
1909	201.....	133
1910	131.....	130
1911	145.....	147
1912	123.....	123
1913	174.....	123
1914	158.....	180
1915	167.....	166
1916	252.....	136
1917	206.....	176
1918	135.....	125
1919	123.....	147
	2,610	2,393

Received by Mecklenburg Presbytery on profession in 50 years	17,075
Asheville since organization in 1896.....	2,181
Kings Mountain since organization in 1902....	2,610—21,866
Received by Mecklenburg Presbytery on certificate in 50 years	13,975
Asheville since organization in 1896.....	2,414
Kings Mountain since organization in 1902....	2,393—18,782

CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PRESBYTERY OF MECKLENBURG FOR FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Year	F. Miss.	H. Miss.	Educa.	Pub.	Pres.	Congre.	Misc.	Inv.	Sal.	Col. Inst.
1870	\$ 734.00	\$ 2,753.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 338.00	\$ 271.00	\$ 13,681.00	\$ 994.00	\$	\$	\$
1871	523.00	2,630.00	430.00	332.00	229.00	17,686.00	1,553.00			
1872	349.00	1,778.00	370.00	235.00	142.00	11,284.00	3,265.00			
1873	793.00	2,400.00	446.00	223.00	.....00	4,290.00	897.00	148.00	10,381.00	
1874	569.00	2,339.00	240.00	336.00	.....00	291.00	2,446.00	259.00	10,367.00	
1875	685.00	4,289.00	469.00	358.00	.....00	5,483.00	362.00	164.00	11,546.00	
1876	1,166.00	3,150.00	322.00	149.00	.....00	4,647.00	189.00	171.00	11,396.00	
1877	940.00	1,486.00	571.00	206.00	250.00	11,447.00	125.00	142.00	11,735.00	
1878	1,037.00	1,600.00	397.00	117.00	269.00	4,586.00	778.00	215.00	11,816.00	
1879	1,203.00	1,600.00	381.00	219.00	395.00	13,249.00	805.00	319.00	11,667.00	
1880	1,266.00	1,800.00	456.00	213.00	238.00	6,653.00	323.00	324.00	12,586.00	
1881	1,505.00	2,300.00	443.00	196.00	334.00	8,900.00	861.00	232.00	15,474.00	
1882	1,948.00	2,000.00	197.00	224.00	219.00	7,989.00	441.00	200.00	14,717.00	
1883	2,285.00	2,350.00	497.00	201.00	297.00	8,952.00	491.00	227.00	14,180.00	22.00
1884	2,652.00	2,300.00	2,451.00	156.00	265.00	9,539.00	1,102.00	204.00	13,126.00	57.00
1885	2,925.00	1,572.00	3,060.00	180.00	385.00	13,660.00	822.00	246.00	16,075.00	61.00
1886	4,844.00	2,500.00	1,147.00	137.00	337.00	21,834.00	1,491.00	309.00	17,778.00	
1887	3,851.00	2,600.00	805.00	199.00	378.00	8,106.00	3,009.00	222.00	17,219.00	58.00
1888	4,356.00	3,300.00	509.00	158.00	247.00	16,251.00	7,336.00	208.00	18,651.00	81.00
1889	5,112.00	4,657.00	1,471.00	293.00	278.00	14,068.00	4,385.00	265.00	17,851.00	103.00
1890	6,128.00	9,419.00	3,045.00	168.00	349.00	17,834.00	2,945.00	278.00	18,118.00	170.00
1891	7,015.00	11,000.00	1,304.00	268.00	336.00	24,341.00	5,250.00	336.00	18,820.00	195.00
1892	8,781.00	7,700.00	2,291.00	388.00	242.00	22,000.00	4,238.00	242.00	20,807.00	645.00
1893	5,596.00	7,000.00	1,354.00	212.00	325.00	17,598.00	4,828.00	171.00	21,069.00	213.00
1894	7,034.00	15,654.00	1,442.00	150.00	600.00	17,122.00	3,169.00	250.00	24,789.00	370.00
	\$73,295.00	\$100,977.00	\$24,588.00	\$5,396.00	\$6,416.00	\$300,791.00	\$52,024.00	\$5,132.00	\$340,165.00	\$1,965.00

Total receipts for all causes for first 25 years.....\$909,852.00

CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PRESBYTERY OF MECKLENBURG FOR SECOND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Year	F. Miss.	A. H. M.	L. H. M.	Cong. M.	Inv.	Ede.	Pub.	Bible	Pres.	Sal.	Cong.	Mial.	College
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1895	5,619	263	3,902	357	207	1,379	210	101	250	23,476	41,625	2,961	
1896	6,216	373	4,862	382	248	1,076	252	70	322	23,743	42,368	7,400	
1897	7,213	353	5,915	146	223	1,153	223	66	354	19,604	17,773	10,387	
1898	5,430	462	6,754	322	261	3,370	171	138	325	20,387	23,617	2,075	
1899	5,141	485	7,840	335	231	2,806	193	129	393	22,007	25,039	1,559	
1900	4,764	933	10,693	332	457	5,673	276	108	312	21,691	14,992	1,728	
1901	4,805	800	9,337	193	408	1,717	235	72	438	21,804	18,491	2,985	
1902	3,829	747	12,280	166	258	7,741	259	79	301	24,303	16,267	2,942	
1903	3,571	563	10,972	127	203	7,652	141	28	264	17,421	14,915	2,056	
1904	3,952	462	9,052	100	175	6,152	128	55	381	17,972	14,064	2,727	
1905	10,817	477	13,014	118	258	8,006	154	41	419	17,533	18,762	2,261	
1906	4,038	562	8,605	181	210	8,155	158	101	406	21,066	20,686	5,648	
1907	5,037	573	6,316	175	873	5,213	138	68	411	22,579	16,835	3,548	
1908	7,355	841	10,238	231	334	14,769	212	91	615	24,439	15,094	9,925	
1909	10,748	1,489	5,316	192	291	9,560	201	162	120	21,942	24,589	8,242	
1910	10,958	2,139	11,250	304	971	659	250	118	126	44,118	2,379	7,747	3,259
1911	10,998	2,441	13,157	280	334	1,235	402	117		55,390		6,347	6,966
1912	12,731	2,676	14,009			7,831	433	149		28,497	30,700	7,748	
1913	15,819	2,772	12,034			5,494	787		264	31,684	38,920	11,479	
1914	12,914	2,225	13,625			14,871	662	202		34,349	39,396	11,854	
1915	13,931	1,769	11,009			1,133	504	203		33,989	34,050	7,536	12,051
1916	14,664	1,736	11,161			1,639	855	249		34,914	43,216	11,997	4,874
1917	14,221	1,615	9,604			2,594	993	198		37,983	40,424	25,875	7,878
1918	14,108	2,231	7,329			1,573	1,602	239		39,578	36,100	33,528	2,382
1919	16,826	3,317	10,200			2,325	1,233	501		43,683	47,838	17,168	18,200
	\$225,785	\$32,268	\$235,615	\$3,991	\$5,942	\$123,776	\$10,672	\$5,275	\$5,601	\$703,451	\$625,949	\$207,423	\$55,620

Total receipts for all causes for second 25 years\$2,223,178.08
 Total receipts for all causes for first 25 years 909,852.00

Grand total for all causes for fifty years.....\$3,133,030.00

The Presbytery of Mecklenburg and Davidson College

When this Presbytery was organized in 1869 Davidson College was then the only literary institution placed under its care. The Presbytery promptly and heartily assumed responsibility and elected trustees. The number and high character of these trustees was a clear indication of the profound interest of the Presbytery in the welfare of the College. And during these fifty years the Presbytery has not failed to be represented on the Board of Trustees and in the student body. And why should not the Presbytery of Mecklenburg have an interest in Davidson College, when the men who aided in founding the College also organized the Presbytery. Rev. R. H. Morrison, D.D., was pastor of Sugar Creek Church in 1835, when he offered in Concord Presbytery the resolution which resulted in the establishment of the College. That now famous resolution is too well known to be repeated here.

Dr. Morrison was unanimously chosen the first President of the College, and in 1869 his honored name heads the list of the first Trustees of the College appointed by our Presbytery. The College, like most of our Church Colleges, has had its dark days but it was never so firmly fixed in the hearts of our people as it is today. And it richly deserves the favor of both church and state. It has matriculated about 5,000 students. It has graduated about 1,500 men and 654 of its students have entered the ministry. With the loud call of today for well educated men to reconstruct the world, now in such confusion and unrest, Davidson College ought to have at least 1,000 students and an endowment of one million dollars.

The Presbytery of Mecklenburg and Queen's College

More than sixty years ago the Presbyterians of this part of North Carolina determined to give the same educational advantages to their daughters as their sons were receiving at Davidson College or the State University, and so they established what was then known as the "Charlotte Female Institute." I am sorry that no adequate history of this College has been written. But in these sixty years the College has been making history. If we could only follow one in ten of the educated Christian women who have been students in this College, we would have a wonderful story to tell. How many sick rooms they have brightened, how many beautiful characters they have helped to fashion in the school room, and how many Christian homes they have established, eternity alone will reveal. Now what have the Presbyterians done for Queen's College? They have in recent years removed the College from narrow, noisy surroundings to broad, airy, beautiful surroundings in Myers Park. They have erected new, modern buildings unsurpassed in the state in those qualities which make a great educational plant. From first to last the friends of the College have spent at least \$300,000 to establish and maintain the College.

In closing I quote a few sentences from the Charlotte Observer of yesterday under the heading, "Queen's Brighter Day": "For the first time in its history, this institution has been obliged to turn away girls for lack of room; as against a high water mark of 105 boarding pupils last year the College opened its doors last Thursday with 141 students who had engaged rooms and made a deposit to hold them. The finances of the College are also in excellent shape. The future of the College was never quite so bright as today."

The Presbytery of Mecklenburg and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia

Founded in 1812 with only one professor, without buildings or grounds or endowment, it has steadily grown for more than a century until today it is the largest and best equipped Seminary in our General Assembly.

Its removal to Richmond, Va., in 1898, was the beginning of great things for the Seminary. Its location in Richmond is ideal. There are 11½ acres in the campus proper and 34 acres in the immediately adjoining Westwood tract. There are ten large and substantial brick buildings, not counting the frame cottages at Westwood. The cash value of these buildings and grounds is over \$300,000.

This Seminary has laid our whole Southern Church under obligations by training 1,877 young ministers. The Synod of North Carolina is peculiarly indebted to Union Seminary, for out of 255 ministers and licentiates in the Synod, 135 were trained at Union Seminary. Now that is what the Seminary has done for us, and the question properly arises, what has our Presbytery done for the Seminary? Financially, we have done very little. I am embarrassed by having to say to you that in the fifty years of our life, from 1869 to 1919, so far as known, we have only given about \$10,000 to Union Seminary.

But I would do a great injustice to the city of Charlotte, to the First Presbyterian Church of that city, to the Presbytery of Mecklenburg, if I did not recall a great gift made to Union Seminary by the Presbyterians of Piedmont Carolina. We have made a gift to the Seminary which cannot be computed in the banking houses of the world. We have given

the Seminary Dr. Walter W. Moore. He was born among us and reared by a most godly mother, a member of the First Church, Charlotte. He was received under the care of this Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry May 2nd, 1879, and by this Presbytery licensed and ordained and after a few years' service in our bounds and in Kentucky, he was called to this Seminary. And it now appears that we have given Dr. Moore to the Seminary for life.



At the close of the historical address the Presbytery took recess. The pastor, Rev. J. W. Orr, announced that the ladies of the church had spread dinner in the grove near-by. And what a dinner! There were at least a thousand persons present and yet there was no embarrassment except the embarrassment of a superabundance of good things. After recess the great congregation re-assembled to conclude the exercises of the day.

As was stated in the historical address, the Presbytery was organized in 1869 in the home of Mrs. Robt. Pearson, in the town of Morgantown, N. C. Therefore it was peculiarly appropriate and gratifying to the Presbytery to have with us Miss Sue Virginia Tate, of Morgantown, granddaughter of Mrs. Pearson, and to have her introduced to the Presbytery. Miss Tate bore greetings to the Presbytery from her aunt, Mrs. Laura Pearson Ray, the only living member of Mrs. Pearson's family and the only living witness of the proceedings of Concord Presbytery in the organization of this Presbytery fifty years ago.

To the Moderator and Members of Mecklenburg Presbytery
at Steele Creek Church, September 17th, 1919.

"Greetings. Being the only now living member of the Presbyterian Church in Morgantown, N. C., at the time Mecklenburg Presbytery was organized by Synod held in

Morgantown, October, 1869, I am requested by Rev. W. E. McIlwain to let the wheels of thought move backward fifty years and tell of the birthday of this child of the church, born in the parlor of my mother, Mrs. R. C. Pearson, October 16th, 1869. When overtures were sent to Synod by Concord Presbytery asking to organize a new Presbytery and the motion was made by Rev. A. W. Miller, D.D., pastor of the First Church, Charlotte, a cloud was seen and felt through this body of God's elect people at the thought of severing a link from the strong chain of Concord.

"Sermons, addresses and prayers were made, calling to mind the ravages the Civil War had made in Church and state and that things might look lawful and yet not be expedient. Fifteen clergy and elders could not be dissuaded; they believed the hand of God pointed to new fields, greater work, bidding them 'Go forward.'

"Today a thanksgiving should ascend for the ripe harvest our Father has given this child of His love. One hundred and seventy-five ministers sent out to give the 'bread of life' to starving souls, not only in this, our own Christian land, but Mecklenburg Presbytery has sent the 'glad tidings' of Christ and His love to far off China, Japan, Africa and Korea. She has organized two new Presbyteries and 77 new churches. 'Behold what great things the Lord hath done for us.'

"No organization was ever more perfumed with the incense of earnest, importunate prayer than Mecklenburg Presbytery.

"Today the Calebs and Joshuas in the 'General Assembly and church of the first born in Heaven' know, see and rejoice with you. I, the daughter of Mrs. R. C. Pearson, wish I could be with you in the body as I will be in spirit.

"Yours in Christian bonds,

"Mrs. LAURA PEARSON RAY,

"Fayetteville, N. C."

Immediately following the reading of this very interesting letter from Mrs. Ray, there was presented to every member of the Presbytery and to all visiting ministers a picture of the brick building in Morgantown which was formerly the home of Mrs. Pearson and in which the Presbytery had its birth. This building is now a business house on one of the main streets of Morgantown.

Then followed the presentation by Rev. R. J. McIlwain, Evangelist of Union county, of two very large and well executed maps of the Presbytery. One of these maps, fifteen feet long by eight feet wide, showed the Presbytery at its formation in 1869 with only one church in Charlotte and thirty-eight churches scattered over nineteen counties of its territory and in six entire counties no church at all. The other map, eighteen feet by eight feet, showed the Presbytery of 1919, which had grown into three Presbyteries. The division lines between Mecklenburg, Asheville and Kings Mountain Presbyteries were clearly drawn and instead of thirty-eight stars representing the churches of 1869 there were 147 stars representing the churches of 1919 and not one county in all three Presbyteries without its stars. The thanks of the Presbytery were given Rev. R. J. McIlwain, Dr. Jno. M. Belk, Elder R. W. Elliott, county surveyor of Union county, and others for these excellent maps.

The second candidate for the ministry to be received by Mecklenburg Presbytery was John Franklin Cannon, of Sharon Church, August 18th, 1871. On receiving an invitation to be present at our semi-centennial, he replied as follows:

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 10, 1919.

Rev. A. A. McGeachey, D.D.

Dear Brother: Your kind favor of the 2nd inst., conveying an invitation to attend the semi-centennial of Mecklenburg Presbytery September 17th, has been received.

I am deeply grateful to the Presbytery and the Committee of Arrangements for remembering me in this way, and sin-

cerely wish it was in my power to accept the invitation. It would afford me peculiar pleasure to be present on that interesting occasion and to revive memories and associations of former years. But unfortunately circumstances are such as compel me to forego the pleasure. My own Presbytery meets on the 16th, and there are some reasons which seem to make it imperative for me to attend that meeting. Please convey to the brethren of the Presbytery my sincere thanks for their invitation and my assurance that I will be with them in the spirit. I cherish grateful memories of the venerable body that commissioned me to preach and rejoice in every report of its prosperity.

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God, even our Father, who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

Fraternally yours,

JOHN F. CANNON.

A very tender interest attaches to this letter of Dr. Cannon, for since it was written he has passed to his heavenly ministry.

There was received and read to the Presbytery the following telegram:

North Wilkesboro, N. C., Sept. 17th, 1919.

Dr. A. A. McGeachey,
Chairman Centennial Committee.

Cordial greetings from Orange Presbytery, the mother of all, we congratulate you upon your fiftieth anniversary and pray God's blessing upon you always.

D. I. CRAIG,
Stated Clerk.

The exercises of the day were brought to a close by appropriate addresses by a number of our visiting brethren. Rev. R. F. Campbell, D.D., and Rev. R. P. Smith, D.D., represented

Asheville Presbytery, Rev. J. T. Dendy, Rev. G. A. Sparrow and Elder A. Nixon represented Kings Mountain Presbytery, and Rev. E. D. Brown and Rev. J. M. Grier, D.D., represented Concord Presbytery. Rev. Walter W. Moore, D.D., a beloved son of the Presbytery, was heard with great pleasure by his brethren. And it was no ordinary privilege to welcome home again Rev. Jas. H. Morrison, D.D., of Arkansas, and Rev. Geo. Summey, D.D., of Louisiana, and have them take part in our semi-centennial. Out of five original candidates for the ministry assigned to Mecklenburg Presbytery at its organization, they alone remain to this day. The mother Presbytery rejoices in their spared lives, their perfect health, and the rich blessings which have rested on their abundant labors in the ministry.

The following resolutions were then offered by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Black:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Presbytery are due and are hereby tendered to Rev. W. E. McIlwain, D.D., Rev. W. W. Moore, D.D., Rev. R. F. Campbell, D.D., Rev. R. P. Smith, D.D., Rev. J. M. Grier, D.D., Rev. E. D. Brown, Rev. G. A. Sparrow, Rev. J. T. Dendy, Rev. George Summey, D.D., Rev. J. H. Morrison, D.D., and Elder A. Nixon for their most excellent addresses.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Presbytery are due and are hereby tendered to the Semi-centennial Committee for the most excellent program.

Resolved, That the Committee on Program of the Semi-centennial Exercises of Mecklenburg Presbytery be and are hereby requested to have the addresses printed and that said committee is requested to ask Rev. W. W. Moore, D.D., or another suitable person, to write an introduction or foreword in which shall be set forth in a suitable way the work done in Mecklenburg Presbytery by Rev. W. E. McIlwain, D.D., if the way be clear.

The order of Presbytery providing for the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary having been fully and successfully executed, the Semi-centennial of Mecklenburg Presbytery passed into history.





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